

Processional Hymn 8

Scripture Selected readings from Micah
Hymn 315

Sermon "What does the Lord Require of
You?"

Recessional Hymn 32

*CONFIRMATION CLASS TO
START IN FALL. 12:00.
ON 12TH STREET - 1242-1245.*

Item Lamartine 11:00 10/5/69

*Processional Hymn 8
*Choral Call to Worship
*Confession of Sin
*Assurance of Pardon
*Scripture Selected readings from Micah
*Gloria Patri
*Apostles Creed
*Pastoral Prayer
Anthem
Announcements

CHOIR DEBUTS WED. 7:30

CONFIRMATION MON. 7:30

*CONFIRMATION NEXT SUNDAY 9:30
ENVELOPES ON BACK TABLE*

Offering, Response, Prayer
Hymn 313
Sermon
Prayer & Lord's Prayer
*Hymn 34
*Benediction
*Threefold Amen
Postlude

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THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Ralph G. Link, Pastor

Trinity Church, New Bloomfield 9:00 A.M.
Christ Church, Duncannon 10:30 A.M.

July 12, 1970

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Prelude
*Processional Hymn # 8
*Solemn Declaration
*Call to Worship
*Confession of sin - page 4, 1st. prayer
*Kyrie
*Assurance of Pardon
Scripture
Selected Readings From Micah
*Gloria Patri
*Statement of Faith (front of hymnal)
Pastoral Prayer
Announcements
Hymn # 315
Sermon: "What Does The Lord Require of You?"
*Offering
*Offering Response (Christ Church)
*Prayer and Lords Prayer
*Doxology
*Charge to the People
*Benediction and Choral Amen
*Recessional Hymn # 32
Postlude

* Congregation Standing

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The flowers on the altar in Christ Church,
Duncannon, are in memory of Erman Wolpert.

The "Win-A-Chum" Class will conduct worship
services at Kinkora Heights Home on July 12th
at 2:00 P.M.

CONFIRMATION CLASS IF
ELIGIBLE MEN & WOMEN 12 OR
OVER

TUESDAY 7:00 MEN'S
CLASS MEETING MISS. BARRY C. RICE.
BLOOM A CHURCH CLASS TO THE
RICE.

DEATH OF FATHER OF
MR. WM. BORCHARDING LAST
WEEK.

What Does The Lord Require of You?

Micah 6; 8 "He has showed you , O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness , and to walk humbly with your God?"

To do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God. This is all the Lord requires of man according to Micah. But the saying of it and the doing of it is two entirely different things. Micah left us a seemingly easy task, but the more one ponders it the more one becomes convinced of the almost impossibility of the task. We can perhaps do one or maybe even two fairly well. But to do all three at the same time is very nigh to impossible. If we look at each one we can very readily see why.

To do justice is the first command. We need to define what we mean by justice. Is this our own brand of justice? Is this the brand of justice administered in certain areas of our country? Or is this the justice that is the same for any man. Needless to say it is the justice that is meant for all men.

But man has a strange way of looking at things. For instance ~~if~~ let's say a murder is committed in another part of the country, A very vicious murder. The murderer is caught and he comes to trial. The verdict comes in and he is given life imprisonment. We ^{would} all most all say, "Well that's a fair verdict, after all it isn't right to put someone to death. An eye for an eye was the old way of doing things." But let that same crime be committed in our area and perhaps in a family we know, and what is our reaction? "Why he should be strung up without even having a trial. This is our justice, only under different circumstances. My Dad always said that circumstances alter cases, and this is indeed true. This is one thing that is radically wrong with our country. We all look at what is happening but we see it with different eyes. To the person who is causing the rioting and the fire bombing, this is right. To the person standing on the sidelines it is wrong. To the person whose property is being destroyed, it is an out right crime. But justice must be equal. It must mean the same thing to each person whether he is white or ^{OR WHATEVER COLOR.} black. It must be meted out the same regardless of whether he is rich or poor. In this respect the old Mosaic law was perhaps a lot better than our laws. It

meant the same for anyone involved in a crime. This fellow did not get off or buy his way out, while this poor fellow was put to death. If it stated death by stoning it was the same penalty for all. But we try to get around this type of justice today. We are paying nine or ten old men to sit in Washington and change our laws to suit the needs of a few people. And then we wonder what is wrong. Until America learns to mete out the same justice to all it will be in trouble. And until you and I learn to show justice to each and every fellow human in exactly the same way, we cannot live up to the commandment of God as set forth by the prophet Micah.

The second point Micah brought out was to love kindness. This is not just a sudden show of emotion such as is displayed on special occasions when we are reminded of it. A good example of this is the weeks observed during the year. We have be kind to dumb animals week and we are all aware at least for a week of the stray cats and dogs and we try to show it. But then comes national newspaper week or something like this and we strive to be kind to the newsboy. Each week it is something different. Were it not for these reminders a goodly majority of us would fail quite miserably at remembering the basics of living.

We are for the most part all wrapped up in ourselves and our own little world.

EXAMPLE OF PREACHER & MULE

In order for anyone to break through into that little world they must first get our attention. The only way to do this is through some such means as the weeks of the year observing a certain thing. But kindness is more than this. It is the tenderness of helping someone who needs a helping hand. It is the love we can show through the giving of ourselves or our material possessions. It is the concern we have for someone who is in need of concern and yet who is not a relation of ours. In other words it means going out of our way to help. Going the extra mile that Jesus spoke of. Helping where no help is expected or looked for. This is true kindness. But the kindness Micah speaks of is the love of kindness. The people who are contemptible, miserable human beings, and who in turn make others lives miserable cannot possibly be kind and therefore cannot love kindness. Anyone who can be kind can love kindness in return, because we can recognize when kindness is being given or shown. But how can you love kindness when you have never shown it yourself? ~~But~~ ^{HOWEVER} This does not mean that we are to cease trying to be kind to those who are unlovable. It means that we should re-double our efforts to

reach them. To continue to be kind and patient and understanding with those who need us to try to help them. To love kindness, yes, to love it enough that we are willing to show it. This is what Micah must have had in mind when he wrote this.

The third point is another difficult one. To walk humbly with your God. How many people could ever possibly walk humbly with God? Not too many. Too many of us could walk proudly, or arrogantly, or snobbishly, but not humbly. To walk humbly with God means to admit that God is greater than we are. To show a humbleness in our lives and to have humility and reverence before this God. Too often the church members act as though they are better than their non churched neighbors. A teacher once asked her class why the Puritans came to America. "To worship in their own way," said Willie, "And make other people do the same." Isn't this the way too many Christians are? We are right and the other fellow is wrong. We find it hard to be humble or to humble ourselves. A great modern saint by the name of Toyohiko Kagawa found that he wanted to be humble. When he first came into contact with Christianity he felt fascinated by it. But one day he cried to the Lord, "O God make me like Christ." And so to be like Christ he went to the slums of Tokyo to live, and all the while he was suffering from Tuberculosis. He went to the last place a man in his condition should go to. He lived here in a six foot by six foot hut in a Tokyo slum. On his first night he was asked to share a bed with a man who has a contagious itch. This was a test of his faith. Would he go back on his desire to be like Christ? No he did not. He welcomed his bed fellow. A beggar asked him for his shirt and he gave it to him. The next day he was back and asked for his coat and trousers and he received them. Kagawa was left standing in a ragged old kimono. The slum dwellers of Tokyo laughed at him and called him names. But their laughter soon turned to respect. He would stand out in the weather no matter what the elements were and preach. "God is love" he would shout, "God is love. Where love is, there is God." He would often fall down exhausted and the rough men of the slums would carry him back to his hut. Kagawa once wrote, "God dwells among the lowliest of men. He sits in the dust heap among the prison convicts. He stands with the juvenile delinquents. He is there with the beggars. He is among the sick, he stands with the unemployed. Therefore let him who would meet God visit the prison cell before going to the

Temple. Before he goes to church let him visit the hospital. Before he reads his Bible let him help the beggar." Herein lies humility and a walking humbly with God. The world and many of us will assess the greatness of a person by how much he is worth, Or how many committees or lodges he may belong to, Or by the size of his bank account, But God measures greatness in man becoming humble and stooping to be of service to his fellow man. How are we serving? Are we arrogant and proud, or are we learning the lessons of humbleness and service to mankind?

Ask many people what the three greatest things in the world are and a large majority will tell you, fame, fortune, and to have a good time. Ask any one who is a true Christian and he will tell you, to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God. This is the way our Master went and should we not walk this way too? He has shown us ~~Ø~~ man what is good; and what does the Lord require of us? We need to think this through, because there will come a day that he will require our soul, and when we are asked what we did with this life may God grant that we can answer, I did justice, I loved kindness and I walked humbly with my God. Let us pray.